

PREFACE



Purpose of the Plan

This Plan of Conservation and Development is a tool for guiding the future of Stonington. It is intended to be both visionary and action oriented.

One purpose is to establish a common vision for the community's future. The vision consists of determining a positive future outcome or positive strategies for Stonington to follow.

Another purpose is to outline action steps that, when implemented, will help attain that vision.

If steadily implemented by Stonington residents and officials, this Plan will help protect important resources, guide appropriate development, protect community character and enhance the quality of life of current and future residents.

Statutory Reference

Section 8-23 of the Connecticut General Statutes requires that the Planning and Zoning Commission prepare, adopt, and amend a Plan of Conservation and Development for Stonington.

Village of Mystic





Use and Maintenance of the Plan

The Plan is intended to provide a framework for consistent decision-making by Town boards, commissions and residents with regard to conservation and development activities.

While generally intended to guide conservation and development over the course of a decade, this Plan will lay the foundation for long term goals reaching far into the future.

This Plan is intended to be a dynamic document. As strategies are implemented and evaluated, the Plan should be refined to address new issues, adjust a course of action, or refine strategies.

The challenge for the Planning and Zoning Commission will be to keep the Plan up to date and keep implementation on course in the face of changing conditions.

Village of Pawcatuck





Preparation of the Plan

Preparation of the Plan began in March of 2002 and was coordinated by a Steering Committee made up of representatives of different boards and commissions and other Stonington residents that met twice a month over the course of two years.

Stonington residents helped guide the overall process through a series of four public meetings and workshops. In addition, a random telephone survey was conducted to help the Steering Committee finalize preliminary strategies.

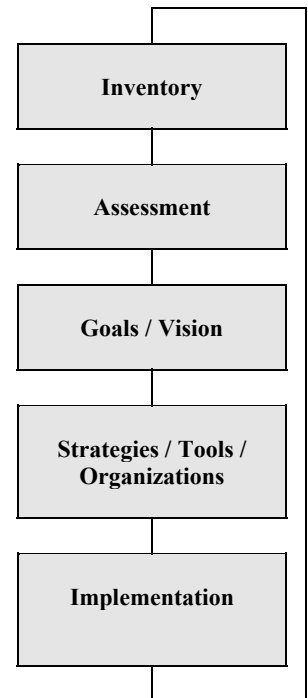
With the assistance of Planimetrics, a planning consultant from Avon, CT, an inventory and assessment of technical and policy issues was conducted.

The Steering Committee reviewed and modified the draft Plan before submitting it to the Planning and Zoning Commission (PZC) for their review. Before adopting the Plan, the PZC referred the Plan to the Town Meeting for its review and comment before holding a public hearing of their own for its adoption.

Growing Municipal Complex at Spellman Drive



The Planning Process





Jurisdiction of the Plan

Many non-residents of the Town of Stonington associate the name “Stonington” with the Borough of Stonington (Borough). While an important part of the greater Town of Stonington, the Borough functions as a separate and distinct political jurisdiction, governed by a Board of Warden and Burgesses. The Borough’s Planning and Zoning Commission regulates land uses within the Borough in accordance with its own regulations and Plan of Conservation and Development.

As a significant and integral part of the Town, it is particularly important that there be discussion of the Borough throughout this Plan. Despite its inclusion, this Plan is not intended in any way to dictate fiscal or land-use policy for the Borough. On the other hand, Borough residents pay the majority of their property taxes to the Town and receive many Town services in return. Because of many interdependent policies and strategies, cooperation between the Borough and Town is encouraged, in order to make implementation of this plan as effective as possible. As one example, zoning districts and/or land uses along the common municipal boundary may or may not be fully compatible, which could be the subject of future joint study.

The Location of the Borough is shown on all exhibits of the entire Town, which are included in this plan. Detailed information within the Borough boundaries is either shown or not shown, depending on its relevance to the map or plan in question.